

Missionary

CONDITIONS OF THE WORK IN BRAZIL.

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Editor of "The Missionary."

South America is called the "Neglected Continent." The term "neglected" as applied to South America has a larger application than the word "dark" in connection with Africa. There is less of darkness in Africa than there is of neglect in South America. By this it is not meant that Africa may not be called the "Dark Continent," for it is. Vast portions of it are yet in absolute darkness. But it is easier to gain attention to Africa's need of the gospel than it is to interest people in South America. Rev. Francis Clark says that he prefers to call South America the "Continent of Opportunity" rather than the "Neglected Continent," as it has the greatest rivers, highest mountains; the vastest and most fertile plains are here formed, and every mineral and vegetable product is here found. A wonderful era has set in for South America, espe-

miles from north to south, and about 2,500 miles from east to west and the country will have been bisected. In square miles Brazil occupies nearly as much territory as is embraced in all Europe. The 3,200,000 square miles of territory is capable of supporting an enormous population and the country is rapidly filling up. The need of the gospel should not be underestimated. It is easier to think of the Farther East, or Nearer East, Islands of the Sea, etc., as foreign mission fields than it is to remember that Brazil, with the superstition and heathenism which is associated with Catholicism and of the millions of Indians in the far interior of Brazil who are almost wholly uncivilized, is as much in need of the gospel message as China, or other Oriental countries. The relation of Brazil to the other countries of South America will be easily seen if the map is consulted. Note the extended line of ocean boundary; then begin at the north and go right around the boundary of Brazil and observe that every country in South America proper touches Brazil, with the exception of Chili, that long narrow strip of country hemmed in by the Andes on the east and bordered by the Pacific on its western



MISSION BUILDINGS AT LAVRAS BRAZIL.
New College Building to the Left.

cially in Peru, Argentina and Brazil—such cities as Buenos Ayres and Rio de Janeiro are forging to the front as the most beautiful and progressive cities in the world.

The Presbyterian Church (North and South) is one of the two leading denominations, the Methodist being the other, that seem to appreciate the importance of the southern half of America. Missionaries of the Presbyterian Church are found in Venezuela, Colombia and Chili, and the missionaries of our branch of the Church in Brazil. It would seem that four out of the eleven republics in South America are worked by the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Clark, in one of the Church papers says: "I am glad to testify to the broad foundation on which the work of the Presbyterian Church in Chili and Brazil, where it was my privilege to see something of their missions, is built, and the substantial superstructure of evangelization and education which is being erected thereon."

In considering South America as a foreign mission field it should be remembered that in extent of territory and future possibilities Brazil is many times the most important republic in the continent. Travel 2,600

boundary.

The work of the Presbyterian Church, both Southern and Northern, has been greatly blessed in Brazil. The work of the Southern Presbyterian Church in Brazil is divided into two sections. The general southern field is to the northwest and southwest of Rio de Janeiro and is divided into the East and West Brazil Missions. In the East Brazil Mission Lavras is our principal station. Here we have a splendid school conducted by Rev. S. R. Gammon, D. D., and his splendid corps of co-operating teachers. The college building is considered a model of convenience and would do credit to almost any of our home institutions. An excellent religious work is done at Lavras and in the surrounding country.

The West Brazil Mission comprises the stations of Itu, Braganca, Descalvado and Campinas. At the latter is located the Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The reports from this field are that an aggressive work is being done by our missionaries and that—in the preaching of the Word, the distribution of Bibles and religious literature, the people are being reached with the gospel.